

PR4



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/832,572	04/11/2001	W. Dwight Calkins	END920000156US1	3622

7590 07/08/2003

Shelley M Beckstrand, P.C.
Attorney at Law
314 Main Street
Owego, NY 13827

EXAMINER

TO, BAOQUOC N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2172

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/832,572	Applicant(s) DWIGHT W. CALKINS	
	Examiner Baoquoc N To	Art Unit 2172	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2,3 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2172

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-27 are presented for examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 04/11/01 and 12/07/01. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rail et al. (US. Patent No. 5,680,611).

Regarding on claims 1, 26 and 36, teaches a method for identifying duplicate records among multiple system, comprising the steps of:

Loading first records having an index number (transaction identifier) (col. 3, lines 1-5) into a database (stores each CDR before batch processing) during a first predetermined time period (day) (col. 2, lines 42-43);

Art Unit: 2172

For each record having said index number (current process record) (col. 4, lines 34-35), searching said database for another record (comparing the current records to the stored records) (col. 4, lines 35-36), loaded during a second earlier time period (night) (col. 2, lines 42-46), having the same index number and replacing said another record, if found, with said first record (col. 4, lines 34-40);

comparing (comparison) each first record (current record) for which no matching (no duplicate) (col. 4, lines 42-45) index number record was found with all other first records for which no matching index number record was found (col. 4, lines 34-36);

Comparing (comparison) each said records (current record) for which no matching index number record (no duplicate is identified) (col. 4, lines 40-45) was found with all the other records including the replaced records in said database (col. 4, lines 46-52);

Generating reports of the comparing steps, the reports listing records which compared (if no duplicate is found then the record is stored in the master file) (col. 4, lines 36-38); and

Rail does not explicitly teach eliminating from said database said first records deemed to have compared. Rail teaches, "if the transaction identifier do not match, then the duplicate has been identified and the record is stored in the duplicate file at step 116" (col. 4, lines 50-52). This teaches comparing the two current records and stored record and eliminating the duplicate record from the main file. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was

Art Unit: 2172

made to include comparison process to eliminate the duplicated records to provide the system with more space to save other records.

Regarding on claim 2, Rail teaches record being invoice records (col. 3, lines 5-10).

Regarding on claims 3 and 27, Rail teaches a method for providing a report that can be used to evaluate two or more invoiced documents for further investigation of possible duplicate invoicing, comprising the steps of:

Maintaining a compact database by removing canceled invoice documents and invoice documents older than a predetermined period (col. 3, lines 41-46);

Extracting data from said compact database by removing canceled invoice documents and invoice indicia, name, date and amount (col. 3, lines 4-6); and

Rail does not explicitly teach producing said report from said data. Rail teaches, "using the selected key fields of the record, the method generates a checksum at step 104" (col. 3, lines 54-55). This teaches generating checksum is producing the report. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention was made to include generating the checksum as state in Rail in order to provide the information that being requested by the user.

Regarding on claim 4, Rail teaches entering invoice data to said compacted database from a plurality of accounts payable system (col. 3, lines 1-2).

Art Unit: 2172

Regarding on claim 5, Rail teaches entering said invoices into said compact database for payment at a later date (col. 3, lines 45-50); and

Checking said compact database for duplicate invoices before said latter date (col. 4, lines 50-52).

Regarding on claim 6, Rail teaches the step responsive to submission of an invoice with a null invoice indicia field of entering data indicia in said null invoice indicia field (col. 3, lines 53-55).

Regarding on claim 7, Rail teaches method for packets of possible duplicate invoices for duplicate invoice analysis, comprising the step of:

Maintaining a collection of current invoice that have not yet been paid (corresponding to the currently process record) (col. 4, lines 34-35);

Maintaining a collection of history invoices that have been paid (stored checksum in the selected check file) (col. 4, lines 35-36); and

Rail does not explicitly teach generating from said current invoices and said history invoices a packet of invoices exhibiting a same behavior, said packet including at least one invoice from said collection of current invoices. However, Rail teaches, "the methods compares the generated checksum for the current process record with stored checksums in the selected file at step 108...if no match is found, then the generated checksum is stored in the check file at step 110. In addition, a unique transaction

Art Unit: 2172

identifier may also be stored with the generated checksum. If no duplicate is identified, the record currently being processed is stored in a master file at step 112" (col. 4, lines 34-43). This teaches the comparison of current record (invoice not yet been paid) and stored checksum (history invoices) to identify the duplicate, and if it is not duplicate then the currently invoice is stored in the master file (packet). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include the comparison current record and the stored checksum to eliminate the duplicate record and produce the report with no-duplicates.

Regarding on claim 8, Rail teaches invoice comprising a record including vendor identifier indicia, vendor record indicia, date indicia, and amount indicia (col. 4, lines 24-28).

Regarding on claim 9, Rail teaches record including a vendor record indicia field, a data indicia field, and an amount indicia field (col. 3, lines 53-55).

Regarding on claim 10, Rail teaches flagging said invoices in said packet against each other with respect to expert criteria (col. 4, lines 40-45);

Dropping from said packet unflagged invoices (col. 4, lines 38-40); and

Discarding remaining packets having no current invoices (col. 4, lines 38-40).

Regarding on claim 11, Rail teaches the step of flagging record pairs having transposed digits in said vendor record indicia fields (col. 3, lines 53-55).

Regarding on claim 12, Rail teaches the step responsive to receiving an invoice with null vendor record indicia field of entering data indicia as data-like indicia to said vendor record indicia field (col. 3, lines 53-55).

Regarding on claim 13, Rail teaches the step of flagging invoice pairs having a same vendor identifier indicia and date-like indicia in said vendor indicia field (col. 4, lines 23-28).

Regarding on claim 14, Rail teaches the step of flagging invoice pairs having matching vendor record indicia (col. 4, lines 53-55).

Regarding on claim 15, Rail teaches the step of flagging invoice pairs having, for matching vendor identifier indicia, matching vendor record indicia except for a prefix or suffix character (col. 4, lines 34-45).

Regarding on claim 16, Rail teaches the step of flagging invoice pairs, for matching vendor identification indicia, having vendor record indicia of different lengths (col. 4, lines 7-15).

Art Unit: 2172

Regarding on claim 17, Rail teaches the step of flagging invoice pairs matching on said vendor record indicia while ignoring embedded blanks (col. 4, lines 50-55).

Regarding on claim 18, Rail teaches the step of:

Flagging invoice pairs having transposed digits in said vendor record indicia fields (col. 3, lines 54-55);

Flagging invoice pairs having a same vendor identifier indicia and date-like indicia in said vendor indicia field (col. 4, lines 24-28);

Flagging invoice pairs having matching vendor record indicia (col. 4, lines 34-40);

Flagging invoice pairs having, for matching vendor identification indicia, matching vendor record indicia except for a prefix or suffix character (col. 4, lines 40-45);

Flagging invoice pairs, for matching vendor identification indicia, having vendor record indicia of different lengths (col. 4, lines 7-15); and

Flagging invoice pairs matching on said vendor record indicia while ignoring embedded blanks (col. 4, lines 46-55).

Regarding on claim 19, Rail teaches the step of forcing all said invoices to be current (col. 4, lines 34-35).

Regarding on claims 20 and 30, Rail teaches the step of capturing packets having same vendor and invoice numbers (identifier) (col. 4, lines 40-44).

Art Unit: 2172

Regarding on claims 21 and 31, Rail teaches the step of capturing packets having similar vendor names and same invoice amount (col. 5, lines 30-35).

Regarding on claims 22 and 32, Rail teaches the step of capturing packets having similar invoice dates and amounts, differing only on flagged conditions (col. 4, lines 23-28).

Regarding on claims 23 and 33, Rail teaches the step of capturing packets having similar invoice dates and amounts, differing only on flagged conditions (col. 4, lines 24-28).

Regarding on claims 24 and 34, Rail teaches the step of capturing packets having same invoice number and vendor name but not same vendor number and invoice amount (col. 4, lines 60-63).

Regarding on claims 25 and 35, Rail teaches the step of capturing packets having the same vendor number and same invoice number and amount, irrespective of invoice date (col. 4, lines 23-28).

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Baoquoc N. To whose telephone number is (703) 305-1949 or via e-mail BaoquocN.To@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached at (703) 305-4393.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231.

The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follow:

- (703) 746-7238 [After Final Communication]
- (703) 746-7239 [Official Communication]
- (703) 746-7240 [Non-Official Communication]

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Crystal Park II
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202
Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

Baoquoc N. To
June 22, 2003

SA Alam
Primary SHAHID AL ALAM
PATENT EXAMINER